DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes

and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided

by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be

submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

        Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview

with Ms. Carol W. Burton on March 17, 2008.

2.   The application has been amended as follows:

        In claim 19, please amend the claim as follows:

A processor for texture compressing images having a plurality of color components (R, G, B), including defining color representatives for use in encoding, comprising:

means for defining groups of colors for each said color component (R, G, B); and

means for selecting, for each said group of colors, a representative median color;

means for computing a length value as a maximum quantization error adapted to be computed when pixel Pij colors are quantized during an encoding step;

means for computing a Euclidean distance based upon the color components of the pixel Pij at the position ij of said image; and means for encoding each color as a function of said length value and said Euclidean distance.

In claim 22, please amend the claim as follows:

A Computer-readable storage medium tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a computer wherein said program of instructions comprises a plurality of program codes for texture compressing images having a plurality of color components (R, G, B), including defining color representatives for use in encoding, said program when executed by the computer implements a method comprising:

defining groups of colors for each said color component (R, G, B); and

selecting, for each said group of colors, a representative median color by

computing a length value as a maximum quantization error adapted to be computed when pixel Pij colors are quantized during an encoding step;

computing a Euclidean distance based upon the color components of the pixel Pij at the position ij of said image; and

encoding each color as a function of said length value and said Euclidean

distance.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3.   Claims 1-13 and 15-22 are allowed over the prior art of record.

4.   The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: In addition

to the teachings of claim 1, 19 and 22, as whole, closest art of record failed to teach or

suggest among other thing,

"Selecting, for each said group of colors, a representative median color;

Computing a length value as a maximum quantization error adapted to be

computed when pixel Pij colors are quantized during an encoding step;

computing a Euclidean distance Dist ij = $\sqrt{(/Rij- \text{min median}R/^2 + /Gij- \text{min}}$

$\text{median}G/^2 + /Bij - \text{min median}B/^2)$

where Rij, Gij, Bij represent the color components of the pixel Pij at the position ij

of said image and min medianR, min medianG and min medianB represent the

corresponding reference colors of the selected group for each color; and

encoding each color as a function of said length value and said Euclidean

distance."

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later

than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on

Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to AKLILU k. WOLDEMARIAM whose telephone number is

(571)270-3247. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 6:30 a.m-

5:00 p.m EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Samir Ahmed can be reached on 571-272-7413. The fax phone number for

the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information

system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Samir Ahmed,
Examiner
Art Unit 2624

A.W.
03/11/2008

/Samir A. Ahmed/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2624